



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

NORTH

Volume 5, Issue 11

November 2006
Official Newsletter

A Message from our Board of Directors

First and foremost we would like to thank everyone for their participation and support in our first Board of Directors election last month.

One of our major commitments to you continues to be regular and open communication regarding the issues we face as a community. While we are exploring multiple methods of keeping you informed, we want to take advantage of every means available to meet that goal.

To that end we'd like to take this opportunity to let you know what we have been doing on behalf of the neighborhood since the election.

Our first action as a BOD was to determine the length of term for each of our Board members. As part of our by-laws we were to select 2 Directors who would serve a 3 year term, 2 Directors who would serve a 2 year term and 1 Director who would serve a 1 year term.

The next action of the new BOD was to elect all Officer positions. We have 4 Officers who are elected by the BOD annually. The Officer positions are the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary. Here is our new BOD, Officers and our terms of service:

Director	Term As Director	Position As Officer (Annual)
Jim Flanary.....	3 Years	President
Don Byrnes	3 Years	Vice President
Peter Smart.....	1 Year.....	Secretary
Chris Chinni	2 Years	Treasurer
John Kane.....	2 Years	

Top Priority Issues:

Management Company: As many of you are aware VanMor has elected to sever their relationship with LOEN. While VanMor was willing to extend their services to us for the short term, they still wish to sever the relationship. Therefore our first priority as a BOD is to evaluate and select a new management company for the HOA. Over the last 3 weeks we have been narrowing down the list of potential vendors and have tentatively scheduled a meeting for October 16th to have the 3 finalists make a presentation to the BOD.

2007 Budget and Assessment:

Our second priority is finalizing the neighborhood operating budget for 2007. Since this budget will impact our annual assessment we would like to give our new management company the opportunity to have input into the process. Our hope is to leverage the new management company's relationships into cost savings for the neighborhood. At the same time we are developing a budget using our current expenses to make sure that we have completed the process by November 30th and that the annual assessment is set in a timely fashion.

Hot Button Issues:

Lake Dye: Over the last 3 weeks we have been approached a number of times regarding the dying of our lakes. As was mentioned in the annual meeting, this is a relatively expensive process (roughly \$23,200 per year when dyed quarterly). The good news is that a portion of this cost (42%) is reimbursed by the MUD. As a BOD we agree that making the lakes more attractive adds to the beauty / value of our neighborhood. In the short term we have agreed that we will dye the lakes shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday. At the same time we would like to explore other methods to beautify our lakes that wouldn't be as expensive and that wouldn't wash down Turkey Creek with the first heavy rain. We'll keep you updated on our progress.

Traffic Light at the West Little York Gate: Many of us would like to see a traffic light installed outside the West Little York gate to allow us to enter and leave the neighborhood safely. This has been an on again / off again issue and it has been primarily driven by Commissioner Eversole's office. At our Annual Meeting we received an update from

(Continued on page 4)

**View the Lakes on Eldridge North
Community Newsletter
each month on-line at
[www. PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)**

Lakes on Eldridge North

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

VanMor Properties, Inc.281-493-0668
Fax281-493-5654
Kate Loeffler, Manager
Kim Stewart, Administrative Assistant
Gate Attendant713-856-6127
Harris Co. Sheriff - (non-emergency)713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)281-466-6161
(non-emergency) ...281-550-6663
Poison Control 1-800-764-7661
Texas DPS713-681-1761
Waste Management713-695-4055
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)
Aqua Services713-983-3602
(Service or emergencies 24 hrs)713-983-3604
Harris County Tax Office713-224-1919
Reliant Energy 713-207-7777
(give pole # of street which is out)
Entex (gas)713-659-2111
Time Warner Cable713-462-9000
Houston Chronicle713-220-7211
Metro Transit Info713-635-4000
Kirk Elementary 713-849-8250
Truitt Middle School281-856-1100
Cy-Falls High School281-856-1000
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Deadline for submitting articles for the Lakes On Eldridge North Newsletter is the 10th of each month. Submissions are subject to space limitations and editorial approval. Submit at www.PEELinc.com

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ADS: Deadline for submitting ads is the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com for information on advertising.

Vanmor Properties, Inc. Contacts

Manager - Kate Loeffler
Administrative Assistant - Kim Stewart
1505 Highway 6 South, Suite 110
Houston, Texas 77077
Phone - 281-493-0668
Facsimile - 281-493-5654

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Message from Board- (Continued from cover)

a representative of the Commissioners office. Since then we have received a letter from the Commissioner stating that a traffic light is now possible but that we will have to make changes to this gate area. We are in contact with the Commissioners office to further define these changes as well as exploring the alternatives and costs of making this happen. Please stay tuned....

Other Issues:

Neighborhood Committees: Currently we have 4 committees; Architectural Control, Landscape Guideline, Emergency Planning and Gate Access. We are currently in the process of reaching out to the current committee members and shaping their ongoing responsibilities. We would like to encourage anyone that would like to participate in these committees to contact one of your Board members to express your interest.

Ongoing Activities: Over the last 3 weeks we have been reviewing our vendor contracts and getting to know the people that provide services to our neighborhood. Many of our vendor contracts are over 3 years old and as mentioned above our hope is to take advantage of our transition to a new HOA management company to negotiate new contracts and cost savings for our neighborhood.

Finally we would like to encourage open communication between the Board and the neighborhood. We will continue to look for other means of communicating with you and would ask that if you wish to contact us please feel free to send an e-mail to Board@loen.com.

Our goal is to maintain LOEN as a premier community and we look forward to your feedback and participation !!!

*Jim Don Peter
Chris John*

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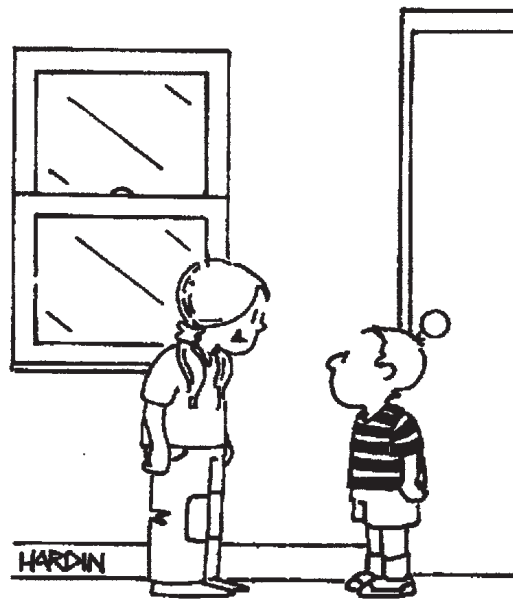
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Begin your Christmas celebrations with Messiah Lutheran's production of "The Littlest Angel". Admission is free. The play is scheduled for Saturday, December 2 at 6 PM and Sunday, December 3 at 3 PM. The play tells the story of the Littlest Angel, a precocious angel full of mischief, and her transformation as she gives a special gift to the Christ Child. The entire family will enjoy this humorous production. In order to be certain the play is not overbooked, tickets are required, but they are free.

Call Messiah Lutheran, 281-890-3013 to reserve your tickets. Messiah Lutheran is a grace place. All people are welcome. Messiah is located at 11522 Telge Road, ½ mile north of Highway 290. www.messiahlc.org



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Join Cypress Christian Students and Support Your Local Food Bank

When the "emergency" call came from Cypress Assistance Ministries, Cypress Christian School employees and students went to work collecting food for needy families in the community. During the month of October, elementary students contributed cereal and jelly while secondary students contributed canned meats, fruits and vegetables as well as soup and pasta.

The relationship between Cypress Christian School and Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM) began many years ago and continues to this day. We have partnered to help meet the needs of families in crisis due to illness, job loss or other circumstance. Last fall, Cypress Christian participated in the effort to provide for Katrina families; and over the 2005 holidays, CCS hosted a food drive to stock the pantry at CAM.

Again this holiday season, CCS employees and students plan to contribute food items such

as turkeys, canned goods, non-perishables, toiletry items, diapers, formula and more to meet the needs of those in the Cypress area. We urge you to join the effort to ensure that men, women and children in the Houston area do not go without. Please consider giving to your local food bank this season and beyond! You'll put smiles on many faces!

Cypress Assistance Ministries is located at 11202 Huffmeister and accepts donations from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday and 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. If you need to speak to someone about donating, please call the Assistance Office at 281-955-7684.

Cypress Christian School is an accredited K-12 Christian school and is located at 11123 Cypress N. Houston Road at Jones Road. We are pleased to make a difference in the lives of those who live in our community.

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Lakes on Eldridge North Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Lakes on Eldridge North residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or e-mail advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



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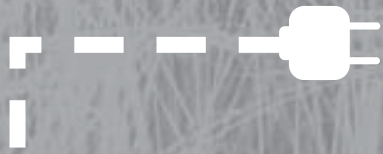
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Lakes on Eldridge North

Texas Events - November

10-11—GALVESTON: Man of La Mancha The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894

10-11—PEARLAND: First United Methodist Pearland Gift Alley Includes high-end arts & crafts, silent auction, music and a children's activity area. First United Methodist Church. www.fumcpearland.org 281/485-1466

11—EDNA: Christmas in the Outback Arts & crafts show is held in conjunction with the Texana Chili Spill at Brackenridge on Lake Texana. Hafernack Center, Brackenridge Plantation Park. www.jacksoncountytexas.com 361/782-7146

11—GALVESTON: Eighth Annual Texas Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Gala Black-tie optional event celebrates aviation pioneers and heroes of Texas. Begins at 6 p.m. Lone Star Flight Museum. www.lonestarflight.org 888/354-4488

11—PORT ARTHUR: St. Catherine of Siena "Taste of Culture" Includes cultural music and food. 409/962-3011

11-12—HOUSTON: 17th Annual Texas Championship Powwow Includes colorful tribal dance contests, an Indian artist and traders arts & crafts tent, honoring ceremonies, singing, dancing and more. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

11-12—PASADENA: 25th Annual Martyn Farm Fall Festival Includes demonstrations, farm animals, antique machines, crafts, music, storytellers, rides and more. Armand Bayou Nature Center. www.abnc.org 281/474-2551

11-12—TEXAS CITY: Model Train Festival Features modular layouts and interactive kids layouts. Museum & Showboat Pavilion. www.texas-city-tx.org 409/643-5799

11-Dec. 24—SPRING: Home for the Holidays Celebrate the season with more than 150 shops offering unique gifts from around the world. www.otsid.com 281/288-2355

12—GALVESTON: 16th Annual Lone Star Flight Museum Fly Day Feel the excitement as WWII bombers and fighters take to the skies. Lone Star Flight Museum. www.lonestarflight.org 888/354-4488

12—GALVESTON: The Levee Singers — A Trip Down Memory Lane The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894

12—TEXAS CITY: Taste of the Town & Auction Showcases area

restaurants. Mall of the Mainland. www.texascitychamber.com 409/935-1408

16—HARLINGEN: Christmas Tree Extravaganza Opens the Christmas Tree Forest Exhibit. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum. 956/216-4901

16-19—HARLINGEN: Murder at the Howard Johnson's (Comedy) Harlingen Performing Arts Theatre. 956/412-7529

16-Jan. 8—HARLINGEN: Christmas Tree Forest Exhibit Be enchanted by the creativity and spirit of a forest of Christmas trees. Call to schedule a tour. Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum. 956/216-4901

17—HARLINGEN: Feast of Sharing Dinner celebrates Thanksgiving Day. Harlingen Community Center. 956/423-5440

17—VICTORIA: Country Opry Hours are 7:30 to 10 p.m. Victoria Community Center Annex. 361/552-9347

17—WHARTON: Christmas-on-the-Square Take in the holiday season with the Christmas tree-lighting spectacular at 6:30 p.m. 979/532-1862

17—WHARTON: Lighted Holiday Parade Begins at 7 p.m. 979/532-1862

17-19—WHARTON: Cowboy Christmas 979/531-0000 or 979/532-1862

17-19, 30—VICTORIA: Nuncrackers Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. www.theatre victoria.org 361/576-6277

18—BAY CITY: Market Day www.visitbaycity.org 800/806-8333

18—BEAUMONT: Jefferson Theatre Presents Vocalist Cassandra Black Begins at 7:30 p.m. Jefferson Theatre. www.sost.org 409/892-2257

18—GALVESTON: Jesus Christ, Superstar The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894

18—KEMAH: Seventh Annual Beat the Heat Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880

18—KINGSVILLE: Ranch Hand Breakfast Cooked and served outdoors on the King Ranch. 800/333-5032

18—LA PORTE: Hard Hat Tour Battleship Texas State Historic Site. 281/479-2431 ext. 234

(Continued on page 9)



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Texas Events-(Continued from Page 8)

18—LAKE JACKSON: Festival of Lights Lake Jackson Civic Center & Plaza. 979/297-4533

18—SAN BENITO: Arts & Crafts Show Fun 'N Sun RV Resort. 956/399-5800

18—TOMBALL: Holiday Parade Features more than 175 entries. FM 2920/Main Street. Miss Tomball Pageant is held at the Tomball Intermediate School. www.tomballchamber.org 281/351-7222

18—VICTORIA: Market Days DeLeon Plaza. www.victoriatx.org 361/485-3200

18-Jan. 7—GALVESTON: Moody Gardens Festival of Lights Moody Gardens. 800/582-4673

19—EL CAMPO: Polka Expo Features polka dancing, various bands and craft booths. Silver Wings Ballroom. www.kulpradio.com 979/543-3303

19—GROVES: Christmas Tree Trail to Groves Find specialty gifts and more. Downtown Groves. 409/962-3631

23—BEAUMONT: Thanksfest Historic Downtown Beaumont. www.crockettstreet.com 409/832-2944

23—HOUSTON: Holiday Parade Route travels 20 blocks throughout downtown Houston. www.hebparade.com 713/654-8808

24—GALVESTON: Harbor Parade of Lights & Boat Festival View the decorated boats. Pier 21. 409/763-7080

24—SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Lighting of the Island Join Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for the official lighting, refreshments and caroling.

South Padre Island Visitors Center. 800/767-2373

24-25—SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: South Padre Island Division I Invitational Basketball Tournament Teams from around the nation hoop it up. 800/767-2373

25—GALVESTON: ArtWalk Galveston's Historic Downtown District. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403

25—KEMAH: Nutcracker Vignette Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880

25-26, 30-Dec. 3—CLUTE: Elizabethan Madrigal Feast Begins at 7 p.m. Center for the Arts & Sciences. 979/265-7661

27—HARLINGEN: Folkways Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum. 956/216-4901

28—DEER PARK: Christmas Tree Lighting Includes musical entertainment, Santa appearance, and turning on of Christmas lights. Municipal Court Building. www.deerpark.org 281/479-1559

28—SAN BENITO: Fall Fun Festival Fun 'N Sun RV Resort. 956/399-5800

30—HARLINGEN: Arroyo Holiday Lighting Features performances by local groups and Santa Claus. McKelvey Park. 956/423-5440

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Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.



Hint: A famous quote by Ivern Ball...

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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Solution on Page 14

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HAPPY *Thanksgiving* ONE AND ALL



During this season of Thanks Giving, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone that voted for me at the LOEN board election. It is a true honor to be able to live, and work in our community! I would also like to thank those who have supported me and the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for the 3 day walk/60 miles, on October 27-29.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

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Big Genome Changes Lead To Nervous System Disorders

Baylor College of Medicine

HOUSTON -- (Oct. 4, 2006) – Understanding many nervous system disorders means taking the large view of the human genome, looking beyond small changes in the sequence of DNA, and identifying structural variations such as deletions or additions of large chunks of genetic material, said Baylor College of Medicine researchers in a review that appears in the current issue of the journal *Neuron*.

In fact, said Dr. James Lupski, professor of molecular and human genetics and pediatrics at BCM, many nervous system disorders are associated with extra copies of genes or deletions of large chunks of the genome that can affect the amount of protein produced associated with a particular gene.

In the paper, co-authored by graduate student Jennifer Lee, the two scientists describe neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative, behavioral and psychiatric disorders known or believed to result from these large genomic changes. These large changes can result in extra copies of genes being present in the genome or deletions of genes, which can affect the amount of circulating protein associated with the disease.

One advance that makes it easier to study such changes is the development of DNA microarrays that enable researchers to scan an entire human genome at once at higher resolution than previously possible with a microscope. While DNA sequencing looks at each

base pair, these microarrays or gene chips allow scientists to evaluate thousands of bases or megabases at once, identifying large differences in the structure of genetic material.

In fact, said Lupski, the first disease in which this was identified in his lab was Charcot-Marie Tooth in which variation in the number of copies of a gene called PMP22 can cause different forms and severity of the neurodegenerative disorder.

"We can now identify several instances wherein changes in the normal two copies of a gene – one from Mom and one from Dad – can result in a clinical disease phenotype (or symptoms)," said Lupski.

"These larger structural changes can even be associated with behavioral disorders or psychiatric traits," said Lee.

This copy number variation thesis could explain the question as to why people could inherit a gene but not show signs of the disease until they are 40 or 50 years old. Parkinson's disease is a case in point.

"There is a tremendous amount of structural variation in the human genome," said Lupski. In some cases, the structural changes or variations in the number of genes may not have an effect, but in others it could be involved in susceptibility to disease.

In other cases, he said, a woman may have one chunk of her genome missing and marry a man with another chunk gone. They themselves

(Continued on page 13)

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Genome Changes- (Continued from page 12)

may not have a disease, but the child they produce might because he or she inherited both structural variants.

Understanding this may change the way scientists study diseases, he said. If a genomic disorder results from altered gene dosage, it may be possible to intervene therapeutically by correcting the gene dosage.

"When you study an 85-year-old with Alzheimer's disease, you don't just look at the base pair changes. You look at the structural changes in the genome," he said.

Lupski is also vice chair of the BCM department of molecular and human genetics. Other disorders discussed in the paper include: Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1A, Williams-Beuren Syndrome, Miller-Dieker Syndrome and Lissencephaly, Angelman and Prader-Willi syndromes, Smith-Magenis Syndrome, Neurofibromatosis Type 1, spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), and Alzheimer's disease.

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Successful Weight Control

It's not just cutting calories

Eating less, or cutting back on fat in your diet, won't keep the weight off. What you really need to do is strike a good balance between the number of calories you consume and the number you burn. And the only way to do that is to exercise.

Don't groan! By exercising, you can lose weight while you eat more calories than if you simply went on a diet. Regular physical activity is much more effective at keeping the weight off in the long run than any diet.

One choice is aerobic exercise

With aerobic exercise, you can lose weight without drastically reducing the calories you consume or sacrificing important nutritional needs. One reason for this is because aerobic exercise not only elevates your metabolism while you're exercising, it can also keep it elevated even after you're done, depending of course on how long and how strong you exercise.

You've probably heard about exercise programs that actually turn your body into a "fat-burning machine." Aerobics can do that. An aerobic program you stick with can help you lose weight easier because it can stimulate your body and make it burn calories.

If weight control is your goal, some types of aerobic activity will work better than others. Low-impact aerobics, like walking, step aerobics and low-impact aerobic dance are your best bets. Some good no-impact aerobic activities you can benefit from include swimming, bicycling and rowing.

If you're just getting started, begin with as little as 15 minutes of low-impact aerobics three times a week. Gradually increase to 30 minutes of moderate aerobic activity four times a week.



Strength training = weight management

Your muscles burn calories during physical activity. What you may not know is your muscles also burn calories when your body is at rest. Increase your muscle mass, and you'll be increasing your body's capacity to burn calories both during activity and at rest. Add to that the research that shows diets that restrict calories substantially can cause the loss of lean muscle mass, along with the loss of fat. By incorporating strength training into your activity program, as well as following a moderate diet, you'll be able to maintain lean muscle mass while you lose fat.

Start any strength-training program with

one set of exercises and a weight that allows you to complete eight to 12 repetitions. Your program should exercise your legs, arms, chest and upper back. If you want to strengthen your stomach and lower back, increase the number of repetitions with weights that offer less resistance.

Success means good eating and good exercise

Follow a moderate low-fat diet and an exercise program that combines aerobic activity and strength training. That's the key to losing weight - and keeping it off.

Begin slowly with exercises you find comfortable and build as your body becomes accustomed to the activity level. Don't start out too hard or too fast. Chances are you may injure yourself or quit before you've done yourself much good.

And remember, you can't lose weight overnight. Set a realistic weight-loss goal for yourself - like one to two pounds a week - eat healthy, get going on a program of regular physical activity, and you'll be delighted by what you accomplish.

Maintaining a lower, healthier body weight is something you can accomplish. So start now and keep on going!



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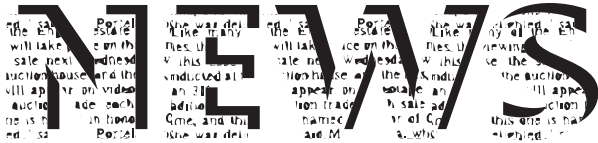
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Positive Thinking: *Berries On The Brain*

(NAPSA)-"Losing your mind" is the tongue-in-cheek term used to describe the loss in memory that we experience as we age. Although a decline in memory is a normal aging process, researchers are looking for ways to delay its onset or progression or, better yet, prevent it altogether. So far, the best strategies for preserving brain health appear to be the very same ones that may also protect against other chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer: a healthy diet and exercise.



New research shows that eating delicious foods such as strawberries may help prevent the decline in learning and motor skills commonly seen with aging. In a new study out of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, researchers sped up the aging process in laboratory animals and then added strawberries to their meals. These additions to their diet helped preserve the animals' ability to learn, remember and relearn different patterns in a maze.

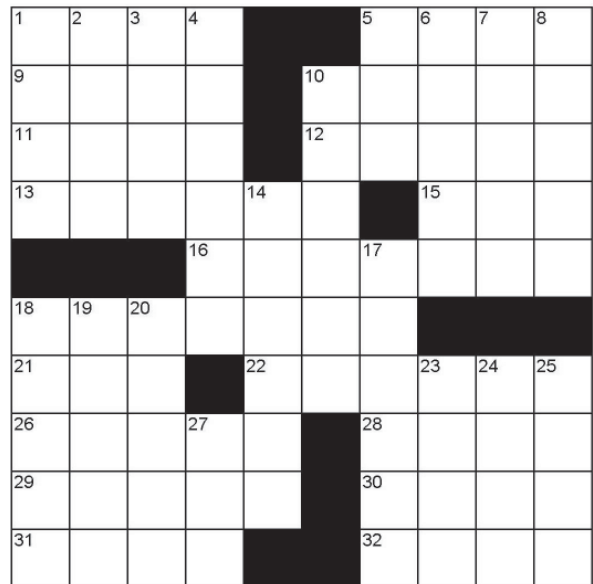
There are several reasons why strawberries may be effective. Previous research has shown that damage to the brain by harmful substances called free radicals plays an important role in the decline of brain function. Strawberries are rich in anti-oxidants that destroy these free radicals; a study ranking the anti-oxidant content per serving of over 1,000 foods and beverages ranked strawberries third overall, behind only blackberries and walnuts.

Strawberries are an excellent source of vitamin C and other anti-oxidants that may help protect the brain as it ages. Strawberries are also a good source of folate, an important B vitamin that, along with vitamin B12, helps maintain normal levels of a protein called homocysteine. An analysis of older U.S. women in a 2004 Nurses' Health Study found that those women with the highest levels of folate and vitamin B12 were cognitively equivalent to being about five years younger.

It's easy to incorporate strawberries into meals and snacks. Strawberries are a terrific way to get your morning off to a great start: Top a whole-grain English muffin with low-fat cream cheese and sliced strawberries or make a smoothie with fresh berries. Strawberries can be a sweet addition to any salad. You can dress up entrées of grilled chicken, beef or broiled seafood with salsas or sauces made with strawberries. And they can be added to desserts or simply eaten whole or sliced for an end-of-meal treat or snack.

So add some anti-oxidant-rich fruits such as strawberries into your diet as often as you can. Your brain will thank you for it.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Tails
5. Tableland
9. Billy or nanny
10. Expressing dislike word
11. Capital of Norway
12. Dote
13. Eludes
15. Beverage
16. Crime
18. Crayon name
21. Cause of sickness
22. Merchant
26. Arc
28. Dwell
29. Ballerina skirts
30. Among
31. Dueling sword
32. Fly alone

DOWN

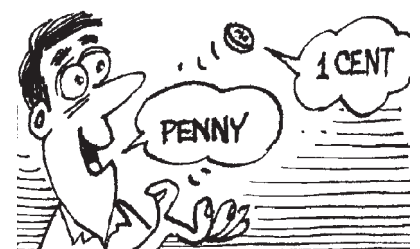
1. Id's counterparts
2. Eat
3. Painter of melting clocks
4. Breezy
5. Soil
6. Show emotions
7. Lark
8. In the lead
10. Fuss
14. Booths
17. City
18. Social position
19. Shred (2 wds.)
20. Having wings
23. Fancy car
24. Vile
25. Do it again
27. Regret

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Technically, the coin that we call a penny does not exist. At the U.S. Mint, it's officially called a "cent."



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Lakes on Eldridge North

Resistant Bacteria Increasing Source of Muscle Infection

Baylor College of Medicine

HOUSTON -- (Sept. 25, 2006) -- An antibiotic-resistant bacteria called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is increasingly a cause of muscle infections in children, said Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) researchers in a report in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

The report appears online at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID/journal/contents/v43n8.html> in the October 15, 2006, issue.

"We had noticed an increase in the number of muscle infections," said Dr. Pia Pannaraj, a post-doctoral fellow in the department of pediatrics' section of infectious diseases at BCM. She said that in recent years, she and her colleagues at Texas Children's Hospital had started to see a case of the MRSA muscle infection every month. In the cases she studied, the infection was acquired in the community, she said.

"I think it is important for parents to be aware that this bacterial infection can exist," she said. "They should seek care from their child's primary physician if there are symptoms of such an infection, such as a child limping or if there is redness or swelling in an extremity."

Houston, in particular, has a high rate of MRSA infections. More than 75 percent of community-acquired staphylococcal infections treated at Texas Children's Hospital are MRSA (resistant to the antibiotics commonly used to treat these infections in the past), she

said. The rate of such infections is increasing nationwide.

In surveying patient records, Pannaraj and her colleagues found that in 60 percent of the 45 previously healthy children with the muscle infections called myositis and pyomyositis, the cause was a form of bacteria -- either *Staphylococcus aureus* or *Streptococcus pyogenes*. The infections occurred between 2000 and 2005. Fifteen of the 26 *S. aureus* infections tested were methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) forms of the bacteria that were circulating in the community. The other infections were forms of staphylococcal bacteria that were not resistant to methicillin, an antibiotic.

It is important the doctors treating patients for skin infections such as cellulitis to use antibiotics that will cure the resistant forms of the bacteria, said Pannaraj.

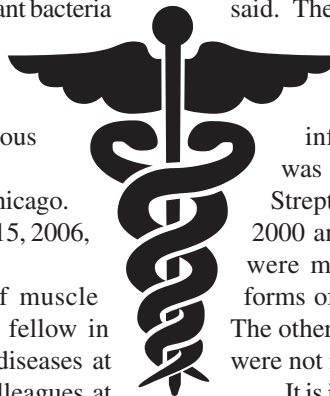
"Be aware that this is out there," she said. "When someone comes in, doctors should be aware that this could be a muscle abscess."

Antibiotics that successfully treat MRSA include oral clindamycin and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, which are usually used out of the hospital, and vancomycin or clindamycin, which is given intravenously, usually to hospitalized patients.

The form of MRSA that is acquired in the community spreads more easily than that usually caught in the hospital, said Pannaraj.

"That's why I am seeing it in otherwise healthy children," she said.

(Continued on pg 19)



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Resistant Bacteria - (Continued from pg 18)

She and her colleagues are trying to find out why this particular form of the bacteria spreads so easily. Her studies are focusing on specific genes. One, pvl, permits holes to be poked into the cells, damaging them irreparably.

"There seems to be an association between bacteria carrying the pvl gene and the severity of disease," she said. However, she said, they have not yet determined whether the problem is this specific gene or another that is close to it.

Others who participated in this research include: Drs. Kristina G. Hulten, Blanca E. Gonzalez, Edward O. Mason, Jr., and Sheldon L. Kaplan, all of the section of infectious diseases in the department of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. Funding for this study came in part from Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company.



Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to ride in an automobile. He toured Hartford, Conn. in a Columbia Electra Victoria on August 22, 1902.

Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

6	1	8		2	9	3		
			5				9	
					3	1		
3	8		4	5				
		7					5	6
				7		8		
							7	2
	6							
	3			1		4		

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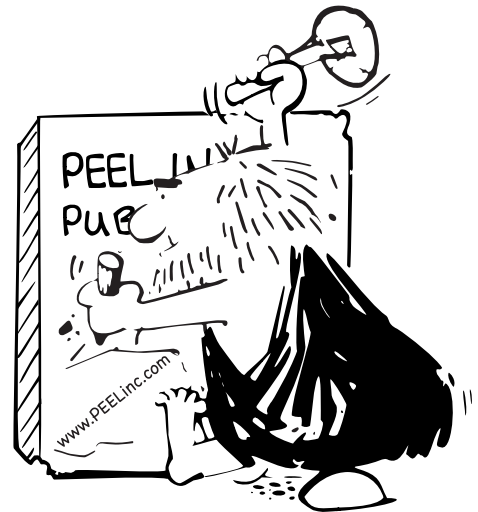
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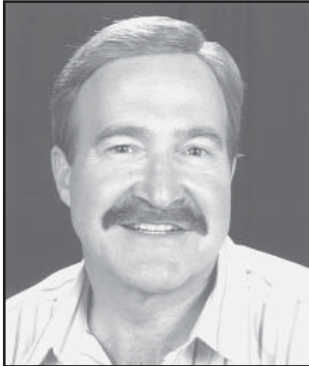
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